

The Present Contrast with One Hundred Years Ago

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

No Recognition or Belligerent Rights to Cuba

SEPARATION OF PUBLIC FROM PRIVATE

Taxation of Church Property Recommended

PLANS FOR SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

The Twin Belle and the Immigration of Chinese Women

THE ARMY AND THE NAVY

Beneficial Effects of the Indian Peace Policy

SATISFACTORY CONDITION OF THE FINANCES

The Course of the Government Regarding Submarine Cables

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In submitting my seventh annual message to Congress in this centennial year of our national existence as a free and independent people, it affords me great pleasure to recur to the advancement that has been made from the time of the centennial—one hundred years ago.

We were then a people numbering only 3,000,000. Now we number more than 40,000,000. Then industry was confined almost entirely to the tillage of the soil. Now manufacturers absorb much of the labor of the country. Our liberties remain unshaken, the homestead has been freed from slavery. We have become possessed of the respect, if not the friendship, of all civilized nations. Our progress has been great in all the arts—science, agriculture, commerce, navigation, mining, mechanics, law, medicine, &c. And in general education the progress is likewise encouraging. Our thirteen States have become thirty-eight, including Colorado (which has taken the initiatory steps to become a State), and eight Territories, including the Indian Territory and Alaska, and excluding Colorado, making a territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On the south we have extended to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west to the Mississippi to the Pacific. One hundred years ago the cotton gin, the steamship, the railroad, the telegraph, the reaping, sewing, and modern printing machines and numerous other inventions of scarcely less value to our business and happiness were entirely unknown. In 1776 manufacturing scarcely existed even in name in all the States. In 1876 more than 2,000,000 persons were employed in manufactures, producing more than \$2,100,000,000 of products in amount annually—nearly equal to our national debt. From nearly the whole of the population of 1776 being engaged in the one occupation of agriculture, in 1876, so numerous and diversified had become the occupation of our people, that less than 6,000,000 out of more than 40,000,000 were so engaged. The extraordinary effect produced in our country by a resort to diversified occupations has built a market for the products of fertile lands distant from the seaboard and the markets of the world. The American system of locating various and extensive manufactures next to the plough and the pasture, and adding connecting railroads and steamboats, has produced in our distant interior country a result noticeable by the intelligent part of all commercial nations. The ingenuity and skill of American mechanics have been demonstrated at home and abroad in a manner most flattering to their pride. But for the extraordinary genius and ability of our agriculturists, mechanics, and transporters throughout the country, we should have been incapable of attainment. The production of the miner has also been great. Of our production was small, now many millions of tons are mined annually. So with iron, which formed scarcely an appreciable part of our produce half a century ago, we now produce more than the world consumed at the beginning of our national existence, lead, zinc and copper, from being articles of imports, we may expect to be large exporters of in the near future. The development of gold and silver mines in the United States and Territories has not only been remarkable but has had a large influence upon the business of all commercial nations. Our merchants in the last hundred years have met with great success and have established a reputation for enterprise, sagacity, progress and industry unsurpassed by people of older nationalities. This "good name" is not confined to their homes, but goes out upon every sea and into every port where commerce enters. With equal pride we can point to our progress in all of the learned professions.

EDUCATION OF THE MASSES

As we are now about to enter upon our second centennial, commencing our march as a nation, it is well to look back upon the past and study what will be best to preserve and advance our future greatness.

From the fall of Adam, for his transgression, to the present day, no nation has ever been free from the curse of slavery to its prosperity and happiness. We should look to the dangers threatening us and remedy them so far as lies in our power. We are a Republic whereof one man is as good as another before the law. Under such a form of government it is of the greatest importance that all should be possessed of education and intelligence enough to cast a vote with a right understanding of its meaning. A large association of ignorant men cannot, for any considerable period, oppose a successful resistance to tyranny and oppression from the educated few, but will inevitably sink into acquiescence to the will of intelligence, whether directed by the demagogue or by priestcraft. Hence the education of the masses becomes of the first necessity for the preservation of our institutions. They are worth preserving, because they have secured the greatest good to the greatest proportion of the population of any form of government yet devised. All other forms of government approach it just in proportion to the general diffusion of education and intelligence of thought and action. As the primary step, therefore, to our advancement in all that has marked our progress in the past century, I suggest for your earnest consideration, and most earnestly recommend it, that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification making it the duty of each of the several States to establish and forever maintain free public schools adequate to the education of all the children in the respective States within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, birthplace or religion, forbidding the teaching in said schools of religious, atheistic or pagan tenets, and prohibiting the granting of any school funds or school taxes, or any part thereof, for the benefit or in aid, directly or indirectly, of any religious sect or denomination, or in aid or for the benefit of any other object of any nature or kind whatever.

UNSTATED CHURCH PROPERTY

In connection with this important question I would also call your attention to the importance of correcting an evil that, if permitted to continue, will probably lead to great trouble in our land before the close of the nineteenth century; it is the accumulation of vast amounts of unstated Church property. In 1850, I believe, the Church property of the United States, which paid no tax, municipal or State, amounted to about \$50,000,000. In 1850 the amount had

doubled. In 1875 it is about \$1,000,000,000. By 1900, without check, it is safe to say this property will reach a sum exceeding \$3,000,000,000. So vast a sum, receiving all the protection and benefits of government, without bearing its proportion of the burdens and expenses of the same, will not be looked upon acquiescently by those who have to pay taxes. In a growing country, where real estate advances so rapidly with time as in the United States, there is scarcely a limit to the wealth that may be accumulated by corporations, religious associations, or individuals, if allowed to retain real estate without taxation. The contemplation of so vast a property as here accumulated, without taxation, may lead to an acquiescence without constitutional authority, and through blood, I would suggest the taxation of all property equally, whether church or corporation, exceeding only the last resting place of the dead, and possessing with proper restrictions, church edifices.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS

Our relations with most of the foreign Powers continue on a satisfactory and friendly footing. Increased intercourse, the extension of commerce and cultivation of mutual interests, have steadily improved our relations with the large majority of the Powers of the world, rendering practicable the peaceful solution of questions which from time to time necessarily arise, leaving few which demand extended or particular notice. The correspondence of the Department of State with our diplomatic representatives abroad is transmitted herewith. I am happy to announce the passage of an act by the General Cortes of Portugal, annulling the adjustment of the Portuguese colonies. The abolition of servitude in Portugal may be another step toward the general consummation to be reached by law, to hold his fellow man in bondage. I am of opinion also that it is the duty of the United States, as contributing toward that end and required by the spirit of the constitution, to provide by suitable legislation that no citizen of the United States shall hold slaves as property in any other country or be interested therein.

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